# THE DISSEMINATOR
## Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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## A TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY COULTER, 1926-1998

Shirley Coulter died on Wednesday, September 16, 1998 at 72 years of age after a short battle with cancer. Her passing marks the end of an era in the evolution of school libraries in Nova Scotia. Shirley enjoyed a thirty year career as Provincial Co-ordinator of School Libraries. In this capacity she travelled the province discussing and promoting school libraries with school boards, superintendents, teachers, and parents. She quite naturally became involved in the formation of the "SLA" (now NSSLA) in 1971, and chaired the 1981 Minister's Task Force on School Libraries. Shirley retired as Co-ordinator of School Libraries in 1989. After her retirement, she gave money to establish an award to recognise excellence in some aspect of school librarianship in Nova Scotia school librarianship. This award was named the Shirley Coulter Award in her honor and there have been three recipients so far.

## CUMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY NEWS

Beverly True has been on the committee for the Cumberland Women's History Project. This project has been undertaken by Dalhousie University student Renee de Gannes and mentored by Laurie Melanson-Jones, field worker for the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Renee has gathered valuable information on the contributions made in many fields of endeavour by the women of this County. The Library will receive a copy of this Project for reference use.

Seen here (sitting, from left) are Beverly True, Liz Cooke-Sumbu, Shelagh Rayworth, Renee de Gannes. Standing are Laurie Melanson-Jones and Cumberland County Transition House Executive Director Lyn Barrett.

In other news, it has been confirmed that Deputy Minister of Education and Culture, Lloyd Gillis, will attend the NcompasS/Infotrac launch at the Pugwash Branch the afternoon of October 16th.

## SCIENCE AWARENESS AT SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

Interested in science and technology? The Science and Technology Awareness Network (STANet)

is a network of organizations, government departments, educators and individuals devoted to promote awareness in Nova Scotia. One of the most successful programs has been Science and Technology Week. The South Shore Regional Library has been involved with this program over the last few years. Each of the five branches hosts a "Science and Technology T-shirt Contest" where every borrower who takes out a science book receives a ballot to win a t-shirt. Teresa Workman promotes topics that are current, educational and of interest to South Shore borrowers. For more information contact Teresa at tworkman@nsbs.library.ns.ca or at 902-543-2548.

## USING YOUR LIBRARY CARD IN THE REGIONAL LIBRARIES

### Western Counties Regional Library

How many of us remember devouring one whole section of our local public library when we were young? Chances are that if you do, you'll like this definition of a library - "A collection of 15,000 mystery novels and 35 other books" (Anon.) Your library card allows you to access a world of information, and Fall is the time to dip back into this universe. Anyone living in Nova Scotia can get a free library card from any regional library by going in and showing two pieces of identification. Western Counties Regional Library is celebrating "Library Card Month" this September. Residents of Digby, Shelburne, and Yarmouth counties are being encouraged to sign up and find out how they can benefit from at least one of the library services. A newspaper style flyer promoting "Library Card Month" describes 50 reasons for joining and lists all the available collections and programs. One suggestion to help with your teenage children is to check out the website on Youth Services at http://www.library.ns.ca/regionals/wcr/youth.

### Halifax Regional Library

Another example of a region with a Fall flyer which is worth checking out is the Halifax Regional Library flyer where programs on literacy and English as a Second Language are outlined, so if you are in the education field you might want to call and find out what's going on. The library branches all around the province often give away various guides to local community courses at this time. Most regions are also happy to help you find guides to community clubs and organizations. Don't forget that some libraries offer one-on-one help in finding information relevant to job seekers and those looking for small business information, and offer workshops in topics that are valuable to all ages. Halifax Regional Library offers these wonderful services which can be tailored to your needs. Visit the website for more details at http://www.cfn.cs.dal.ca/Libraries/HCRL/adult.html.

## CIRCULATION AT THE HALIFAX REGIONAL LIBRARY

Since amalgamation in 1996, all 13 branches of the Halifax Regional Library (HRL) have been experiencing changes in circulation patterns. The greatest change is the increase in circulation at the former Halifax County Regional Library branches. Automation, along with the establishment of an efficient Delivery Services Team, has allowed patrons to see the complete listing of all HRL materials at their own branch, to place a hold on any circulating item at any branch, and have it delivered to the branch of their choice. During the first full year of automation, April to March 1998, the number of holds increased by 43.5% - see figures below:

## CIRCULATION CHART FOR NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES, COMPARING 1996/7 TO 1997/8

| April 96 -March 1997 | April 96 -March 1998 | % Increase |
|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Halifax Total Items Circulated | 3,563,459 | 3,729,261 | 4.7% |
| Halifax Total Items Placed on Hold | 265,807 | 381,426 | 43.5% |
| All Regional Libraries Total Items Circulated | 6,260,778 | 6,376,213 | 1.84% |

## NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM LIBRARY

The Nova Scotia Museum Library, located in the Museum of Natural History in Halifax, is a research facility which serves both museum staff, and the general public. The Library's collection includes books, pamphlets, periodicals, newsletters, and audio-visual materials on natural history, social history and material culture, conservation, and museology.

The primary subject focus is on Nova Scotia, but we also collect international materials to support the Museum's programs. The collection, which is comprised of approximately 11,000 items, includes a number of unique Nova Scotian resources. Materials are available for consultation in the Library only, though many items can be made available through interlibrary loan.

The library is open year round, 10 am to 2 pm, Monday to Friday; 10 am to 8 pm, Wednesday (September 1998 to March 1999 only); and at other times by special arrangement. Roxanne MacMillan, the Library Assistant, suggests that patrons call ahead to confirm library hours. Roxanne is shown here with Kevin McGrath, a staff designer, and Lynda Boutilier, library student assistant. For information E-mail mnhlibry@gov.ns.ca or call 902-424-7198.

## VIRTUAL NS/NWT EXCHANGE PROJECT

Children in libraries across Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories have had a unique opportunity this summer to explore and expand their worlds with a virtual exchange project named the "Kids Connect at the Library". The goals of the Virtual Exchange have been to:

- connect the young people of these distantly removed locations with live chats over the Internet.

- encourage them to find out what makes their communities distinct, as well as to discover what they have in common with other communities across Canada.

- create a place on the Internet that young people can call their own.

Growing constantly since it was created at the beginning of August, the Virtual Exchange's website hosts 42 regular participants and many more guests. Using WebBoard, a software package provided by the Community IT Division of the Nova Scotia Science and Technology Secretariat, participants also took part in threaded discussions on the Internet which allowed them to read and post messages to one another.

With the help of coordinators in the Pictou-Antigonish region of Nova Scotia and the Hay River region (see map) of the Northwest Territories, children in the Virtual Exchange have been going online to talk about their communities and cultures, getting to know kids in far away places.

Visit the website at http://www.library.ns.ca/regionals/virtual/welcome.html.

The project was coordinated by Michael Vandenburg at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, with the young people's participation facilitated by Amanda Fraser in Nova Scotia and Min Feng in the Northwest Territories. Although the project ends on September 27, plans are being made for its continuation by elementary schools in the regions involved. Michael is shown here with Amanda and some of the youth involved in Nova Scotia.

## PROMOTIONAL VIDEO FOR LIBRARIES

Developments are unfolding quickly in the production of a video to promote libraries in NS and to highlight and illustrate their worth in our communities. Testimonials from patrons have been collected in all of the regions and sent in for review by the Video Sub-Group. A script outline from Ray Whitley, Coordinator, Media Production, Learning Resources & Technology, Nova Scotia Department of Education and Culture, will be produced and a schedule of videotaping will be put in place for "lights, camera, action" during the Fall.

## SENIORS' EXPO 98, "LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT"

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library and the Halifax Regional Library once again organized a joint display booth at the Annual Seniors' Expo held in Halifax on July 17 and 18, 1998. Volunteers included staff from Cumberland Regional Library, South Shore Regional Library and Western Counties Regional Library. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library booth was co-ordinated by Arlene Watts, Special Services Library Assistant at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. There was a marked increase in the number of seniors who visited the Nova Scotia Regional Public Libraries' booth over last year. Seen here with two seniors are Nancy Fullerton from Halifax Regional Library (far left), Arlene Watts (centre) and Beverly True from Cumberland Regional Library (far right). Each visitor was invited to enter the hourly draw for a Summer Reading Program sweatshirt. Handouts at the booth visitors promoted the various services especially suited for seniors, available at all Nova Scotia Regional Public Libraries. These services were emphasized by continuously running descriptive videos, the operation of a print enhancer machine and demonstrations of materials suitable for those with a print handicap.

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM WINNERS

September 8th was International Literacy Day. The Halifax Regional Library and the Adult Literacy Staff of the Department of Education and Culture put together a program celebrating personal achievements in attaining literacy. Invitees from the government, Jim Smith, Minister of Health and Robbie Harrison, Minister of Education, gave short comments and readings of favourite authors. Carole Compton-Smith, Coordinator of User Services, Nova Scotia Provincial Libraryannounced the winners of the Summer Reading Program draw as follows:

- Sean Gamborg, Annapolis Valley Regional Library, in the 10-12 age group
- Brittany Thomson, Halifax Regional Library, in the 7-9 age group
- Chantal Hamilton, Colchester-East Hants Regional Library, in the pre-school to age 6 group

## GATES LIBRARY FOUNDATION

A committee of Regional and Provincial Library staff is developing a Nova Scotia proposal for funding by the Gates Library Foundation. A first draft has been distributed for comments from across the province. One of the critieria for funding projects is that communities be below the national average for poverty and so the Nova Scotia proposal will not be complete until the particular libraries are identified. We expect these to be available later this Fall. The Canadian program of the Gates Library Foundation will be officially announced on October 1 in Montreal, at which time more information will be available.

## A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER "CAP"FULL OF ACTIVITIES (COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM) IN NOVA SCOTIA

### Summer Youth Employment Initiative

For the third year in a row, youth have had the opportunity to gain experience in the field of community-based Information Technology (IT) by working at Community Access Program (CAP) sites across the province. CAP sites continue to provide access to Internet technology in rural communities. Under the "Summer Youth Employment Initiative", over 160 youth were employed to work with CAP sites. During their 10 weeks, these young people have had the opportunity to increase their skills and capabilities by working with computers, marketing and promoting CAP sites, informing community organizations and businesses about the Year 2000 bug and training the public how to use this rapidly expanding technology. Through their combined efforts, an

estimated 25,000 people visited CAP sites in Nova Scotia this summer.

Libraries once again contributed to the program by providing the opportunity for 18 youth to assist and train the public on the Internet, perform promotional work, and create innovative web pages. Another new initiative this summer was to have young people inform the public about the year 2000 problem. By holding workshops and information sessions, over 1500 people from communities and businesses learned more about the pending problems of Y2K. If you are interested in learning more about the Community Access Program or the success of the Summer Youth Employment Initiative please feel free to contact Karen Parusel at Tel: (902) 424-1723, Fax: (902) 424-0129, or E-mail: paruseki@gov.ns.ca.

**CAP Funds Computer Lab**

The Annapolis Valley Regional Library hosted the official launch of its Community Access Project (CAP) site at the Wolfville Memorial Library, Wolfville, Nova Scotia on August 5. This site consists of a full computer lab housing five computers, a printer, a scanner and five Internet-accessible jacks for personal laptop computers. Six additional jacks have been installed in the library area to accompany existing technology. Since the site's implementation, the library has developed and offered training sessions on Computer Basics, the World Wide Web, E-mail, Word Processing, On-Line Catalogue Searches, and Web Page Design. This initiative has been extremely well-received by the community. This CAP initiative is 50% funded by Industry Canada, with the remaining funds provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Culture, municipal governments and the Annapolis Valley Regional Library. Community partnerships with local businesses and organizations also played a key role in the implementation of this important project. For more information, contact Wendy Trimper at 902-665-2995 or at wtrimper@nsar.library.ns.ca.

**COMMUNITIES AND THE INTERNET REPORT: THE VIEW FROM TWO CONFERENCES**

**British Columbia Community Networking Association Conference, Whistler, BC.**

The first conference was put on by the British Columbia Community Networking Association (BCCNA). Community networks provide local, affordable Internet access and electronic public space, as well as Web space for community-based organizations. A wide range of models are being used in BC. Some community networks are CAP sites (Community Access Points -- Industry Canada funded projects). Others are full service, cooperatively run Internet Service Providers (ISPs) -- and in one or two cases the only Internet providers in isolated towns. Still others are community, school or library-based resources. The purpose of the organizations range from social activism to community economic development to education to ongoing technology experiments.

The coordinated approach that was being taken by the BCCNA was striking. With the help of the Provincial government and Hewlett Packard, BCCNA has launched a Provincial Server. The server will provide services on two levels. On one level it will allow anyone in BC. to have an e-mail address and Web space. Secondly, the server will provide for "virtual community nets" until communities can develop the local talent or find the necessary resources. There was considerable discussion about what one participant called the "grey zones" -- areas of Canada in which it was particularly difficult to provide Internet access. In BC., those grey zones are often geographically remote areas of the province which are very expensive to service.

**The Net 98: The Canadian Internet Conference, Whistler, BC.**

The agenda was dominated by speakers from Cisco, Stentor, Newbridge Networks and by people thinking and talking about Canarie Net II and III (the next generations of the Internet). Even toning down the hype, some of the statistics were impressive. For example, the amount of material being transmitted via the Internet is growing at 10% month in North America; or, that the busiest time for the telephone system in Toronto has now shifted from mid-business day to 11 pm. The amount of money and the ferociousness with which so many companies were tackling the Internet created a striking impression.

Sandwiched between the two conferences was a short presentation by Garth Graham (a Telecommunities Canada Board member). He said that electronic public space would become but one small part besides a vast commercial space. Garth's plea was for governments to regulate the commercial space, rather than the entire electronic public space. While there is a furious effort going on to commercialize the Internet, there appears to be also a large opening for community nets. Either because of ignorance, or underestimation, or whatever, few of the big players (telephone companies, software and hardware companies, etc.) were preoccupied with community networks and their enormous potential. But by the same token, community nets are struggling to get by, and will need the active support (in a wide range of forms) of governments and institutions such as schools and libraries, for some time to come -- Peter Morgan, Chair of the Board of the Chebucto Community Network.

## THE NETWORK FOR CREATIVE CHANGE

The Network for Creative Change began in the summer of 1996 when a group of Nova Scotians came together to bring Robert Theobald, economist and futurist to Nova Scotia to participate in community-based discussion following his proposed Massey lecture series on "fundamental transformational change at the personal and community level." From there, the group went on to become the Network for Creative Change (NCC), an electronic Network of individuals and groups who have a common shared value in "systemic change" or "whole system" change. For more information, visit the website at http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/CommunitySupport/NCC/NCCHPAGE.html.

## THE GLOBAL BANGEMANN CHALLENGE

The Global Bangemann Challenge is a nonprofit awards program initiated by the City of Stockholm and supported by the European Commission. The purpose of the Challenge is to identify and expose useful and functional information technology projects from all over the world that help people reach new levels of prosperity, health and democracy, such as community networks. The Challenge spans two years and the goal is to attract projects from cities and regions around the world. In June 1999, there will be an Awards Ceremony in Stockholm and the winners and finalists will receive their trophies and, of course, great media attention.

Read more about the Challenge over the world and study the projects already submitted from all over the world on the website at http://www.challenge.stockholm.se, or contact Adam Holmstrom at the Global Bangemann Challenge office in Stockholm: adam.holmstrom@challenge.stockholm.se Telephone: +46.8.508 29 124

## STAFFING NEWS

### Provincial Library staff news

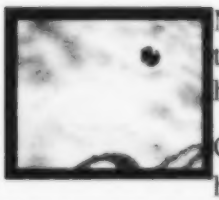
Debbie Ross, Secretary to the Nova Scotia Provincial Librarian, just returned from a six month leave of absence in the Golan Heights, Israel, (otherwise known as Israeli occupied Syria) where she served with a UN peacekeeping mission. Here is her first-hand account about one of her favourite places, which is shown in the accompanying photograph.

"Souk Al Hamidieh is a large covered market in the centre of Damascus, Syria where I spent many of my Sundays (and some Saturdays) roaming from shop to shop. The shops are open from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. and some close between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. The souk or market is so large you can spend all day there and not go into the same store twice. You can buy anything in the market; jewellery, clothes, shoes, spices, food, kitchen utensils and building materials. In order to drum up business, the shopkeepers come right out into the street to try to lure you into their shops. Once inside, they offer you tea, coffee or a cola. In the meantime, he or she will offer to sell you the best tableclothes (for example) for the lowest prices in all of Syria. One thing I became very good at and enjoyed immensely was bartering. The original price quoted is probably 5 times more than the item is worth, but if you stick to your guns, you can usually get a reasonable price. The Souk was one of my favorite places - the smells, the people, the hustle and bustle - very different from shopping in Nova Scotia!"

**Provincial School Libraries Coordinator position**

Following a consultation process with key players in school libraries in Nova Scotia, Senior Management in the Department of Education and Culture has agreed that the Provincial School Libraries Coordinator position and funding would be transferred from the Provincial Library to the English Program Services Division of the Program Branch. Tom Rich, Executive Director of the Program Branch, and Ann Blackwood, Acting Director of English Program Services Division, will be following up on this matter in the Fall.

## LINKed



Now that school has started, it won't be long before children and young adults will be going to their local public library to find information for school projects. This month we are highlighting some useful Internet sites which may help.

Canada's **SchoolNet Learning Resources** page at http://www.schoolnet.ca/home/e/resources/ has educational sites for all levels of students arranged by subject category. Canadian sites are listed first followed by international sites. **SchoolNet Digital Collections** at http://www.schoolnet.ca/collections/E/ has over 200 collections of documents on Canada's history and culture. Collections are organized alphabetically as well as being grouped by subject. SchoolNet is a collaborative initiative among various educational associations, provincial ministries of education, industry, and consortia and SchoolNet Digital Collections is an Industry Canada program. One of the links on SchoolNet is to the **National Atlas of Canada** which is a geographical resource about Canada and its communities. Featured on the site are a map creation tool, a geography quiz, a geographical names search tool and Defacto, a Canadian geographical fact book. Visit the site at http://www-nais.ccm.emr.ca/schoolnet/.

**Atlapedia Online** at http://www.atlapedia.com/ is published by Latimer Clarke Corporation Pty Ltd. A warning about legal terms and conditions of use comes up before you can use the material. Information is arranged alphabetically by country or by "World Maps" which offers a pop-up menu of countries.

The **Internet Public Library Youth Division** at http://www.ipl.org/youth/ has resources grouped together under topic headings such as Music, Museums and Sports & Recreation. If help can't be found among the resources here, there is an interactive "Ask A Question" page.

For those who need help with math there is **The Math Forum - Ask Dr. Math** at http://www.forum.swarthmore.edu/dr.math/dr-math.html. This is a question and answer service for K-12 math students and their teachers. Questions are answered by college math students. A searchable archive is available by level and topic, together with a FAQ. Another site which provides help with math is **A+ MATH** at http://www.aplusmath.com/. This site is for elementary age children who can test themselves with flashcards and use the homework helper (which indicates if their answers are correct).

**B.J. Pinchbeck's Homework Helper** at http://tristate.pgh.net/~pinch13/ has been recognized with a number of awards for excellence. It is the work of an 11 year old boy and his father and has links to more than 500 sites arranged in sections including Reference, News and Current Events, Foreign Language, Computers and the Internet. **Science Experiments** at http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/scout/KIDS/archive/KIDS-980325.html is actually the March 25, 1998 issue of **KIDS Report**. It evaluates Internet sites for youth. In the Science Experiments issue, seventeen sites are reviewed. Another excellent resource for science experiments is the Internet Public Library's **Science Fair Project Resource Guide** at http://www.ipl.org/youth/projectguide/.

**KidsConnect** at http://www.ala.org/ICONN/AskKC.html is an information and referral service for students from kindergarten to 12 th grade who are looking for information on the Internet for a report or project to do for school. A school librarian/media specialist will reply with suggestions. For students who need help right away, there is **KidsConnect Favorite Web Sites for K-12 Students** at http://www.ala.org/ICONN/kcfavorites.html where there is also a FAQ. KidsConnect is part of ICONnect, a technology initiative of the American Association of School Librarians.

If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column, please contact Carol Morris at cmorris@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

**REFERENCE ON THE NET**

Q. Looking for information on a company called Document Searching Services in St. John, New Brunswick.

A. Industry Canada's **Canadian Company Capabilities** database at http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_coinf/ccc/engdoc/search.html was searched using the phrase "document searching services" and this brought up a record which included an informative company profile section in addition to basic address and contact information and a link to the company's URL on the Internet.

Q. Patron wants information on a 1920's style of house design referred to as "Arts and Crafts" period.

A. An excellent source of architectural information on the Internet is **The Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals** at http://www.ahip.getty.edu/aka/aka_form_pub.html which is available for searching free of charge as part of **The Getty Information Institute Site** . The database contains nearly 133,000 records for periodical literature indexed between 1977 and 1994. At the search page where several other databases can also be searched, highlight **Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals** and key in the search terms "arts crafts houses" in the search box. This brings up titles of 38 periodical articles. To get the full citation click on the title of each.

**PROFESSIONAL READING**

This month's column features three of the latest additions to the professional collection at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. These items can be borrowed through the regular interlibrary loan channels available at your local public library.

**Heart Health Partnership** [ video ]. Halifax: Heart Health Partnership, 1998. ( 8:51 minutes ).
The Heart Health Partnership is a project jointly funded by Health Canada and the Nova Scotia Department of Health. It consists of twenty volunteer organizations in the province and is dedicated to take action against heart disease which is the number one killer of Canadians. The Heart Health Partnership was designed to target communities in Western Nova Scotia. This alliance of concerned organizations assists local communities to create an environment which promotes heart health. In this video, members of the Heart Health coalition are interviewed about the impact of the various programs offered by this project.

**Nova Scotia Knowledge Economy Report Card**. Halifax: Novaknowledge, 1998.
This is the first of a series of annual report cards on the progress of Nova Scotia's knowledge-based economy. The purpose of the report card is to 1) evaluate and provide a continuous review of the knowledge-based economy and its social and economic implications in Nova Scotia, 2) to increase Nova Scotia's awareness of opportunities and possibilities offered by the knowledge-based economy and 3) to build Nova Scotians' confidence in their own ability to seize these opportunities. The audience for this report card includes anyone interested in growing Nova Scotia's knowledge-based economy, particularly those already in leadership roles in the public and private sector who are in a position to influence their sector's direction.